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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/803,150	03/17/2004	Ronald P. Snyder	29020/407A	5042

4743 7590 09/12/2005

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EXAMINER
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PUROL, DAVID M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3634

DATE MAILED: 09/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/803,150

Applicant(s)

SNYDER ET AL.

Examiner

David M. Purol

Art Unit

3634

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 20-24 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4,11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark in view of Rosenoy. Clark discloses a panel assembly comprising first and second curtains 85a,b, a connecting bar 91,92, a bottom bar 140, a windbar 90. While Clark does not disclose that the connecting bar is stiffer than the flexible curtain, Rosenoy discloses a panel assembly comprising a connecting bar 52 which is stiffer than the flexible curtain, wherein, to incorporate this teaching into the panel assembly of Clark for the purpose of further strengthening the panel assembly would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

2. Claims 5-8,14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark in view of Rosenoy as applied to claims 1-4,11-13 above, and further in view of Palmer. While Clark does not disclose the bottom bar as having two bar members, Palmer discloses a panel assembly having a bottom bar comprising two bar members 50,52-55, wherein, to incorporate this teaching into the panel assembly of Clark, as modified by Rosenoy, for the purpose of substituting a mechanical equivalent for another so as to obtain the advantages inherent therein such as ease of assembly would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

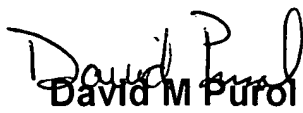
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3. Claims 9,10,18,19 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark in view of Rosenoy as applied to claims 1-4,11-13 above, and further in view of Miyagawa et al. While Clark does not disclose the use of deadweights, Miyagawa et al disclose a panel assembly which employs the use of deadweights 4a,b;5a,b;8a,b, wherein, to incorporate this teaching into the panel assembly of Clark, as modified by Rosenoy, for the purpose of preventing undesired movement of the panel assembly would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

4. Claims 20-24 are allowed.

5. The following prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Taylor, Thomas, Kirkey et al, Snyder, Varley et al, Gidge, Groves et al, Pinkalla et al, Youngs et al.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to David M. Purol at telephone number (571) 272-6833.

  
David M Purol  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3634